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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

GHATT, DAVE A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/626,040	Applicant(s) NAKANISHI, TADAYOSHI	
	Examiner Dave A Ghatt	Art Unit 2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9, 12-18, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5, 10, 19, 23, 26, 27 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 11 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 July 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 4, 5, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fulkerson et al. (US 6,059,391) in view of Zelko (US 5,887,519). With respect to claims 4 and 23, Fulkerson et al. teaches a system for printing on oversized print media. Figures 1 and 2 of Fulkerson et al. teach a transportation system having a track 22, a printing station 12 comprising a movable print head. With respect to the requirement for an unloading and delivery station, the apparatus illustrated in Figure 1 must inherently include these stations downstream of the printing station 12, in order for the apparatus to be operable. Fulkerson et al. further teaches a platform 14 sized to receive an oversized print substrate, the print substrate being sized to correspond to a desired product size. As illustrated in Figure 1, the platform resides on the track and moves along the track in a translational motion. The printing station 12 and the unloading station and delivery station, must be coupled together, in some manner, by the track 22. As outlined in column 4 lines 43-49, the print head is configured to scan across the print substrate in a direction perpendicular to the translational motion of the print substrate. Fulkerson et al. teaches all that is claimed except for a clamping device and an expandable member, wherein the clamping device is coupled to the expandable member and configured to be releasably coupled to

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the print substrate. Zelko teaches clamp 62 being pressed into engagement with rail 44 so as to thereby clamp the reinforcement rail between the clamp 62 and support bar 54, thus forming parts of a clamping device for clamping engagement with printing screen 28, which encompasses platform 12 extending through six printing stations 26. Zelko also teaches an expandable member 60, which as outlined in column 4 lines 56-60 can be activated to move the clamp 62. Therefore the clamp 62 is coupled to the expandable member 60. It would be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to provide the clamping and expandable members of Zelko, in the apparatus of Fulkerson et al., in order to ensure that each platform is accurately located in positions during each printing operation for accurate printing at successive printing stations as taught by Zelko in column 4 lines 60-67 and column 5 lines 5-10.

With respect to claim 5, as outlined above, Fulkerson et al., teaches all the claimed subject matter except for clamping device being releasably coupled to the print substrate. The above describe apparatus of Zelko meets the definition of a "clamping device being releasably coupled to the print substrate" because as broadly recited, the clamping device is coupled to print substrates that are positioned on the platform 12. As stated above, it would be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to provide the expandable member and the clamping device releasably coupled to the print substrate of Zelko, in the apparatus of Fulkerson et al., in order to ensure that each platform is accurately located in positions during each printing operation for accurate printing at successive printing stations as taught by Zelko in column 4 lines 60-67 and column 5 lines 5-10.

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3. Claims 10, 19, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinsberg (US 6,246,461) in view of Takoaka (US 6,693,718) renders obvious the claimed method. Hinsberg teaches a method for printing an oversized print media. As outlined in column 7 lines 29-41, Hinsberg teaches the step of assembling a single print substrate, wherein the single print substrate comprises a plurality of smaller print substrate segments. See Figures 2 and 6, illustrating the plurality of print substrate segments. As outlined in column 10 lines 37-44, Hinsberg also teaches the steps printing the image onto the pre-assembled single print substrate. However, Hinsberg does not disclose the how the printed image is processed. Takoaka teaches the process of printing an image onto a preassembled substrate, including the step of forming the image. As outlined in the abstract, Takoaka teaches the steps of receiving the image from a user/client, editing and adjusting the print parameters for the image, scanning the image and storing the image on a storage medium, and printing the image onto a pre-assembled single print substrate. See Figures 1 and 2. To one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious to use the image processing disclosed by Takoaka, in the method of Hinsberg, in order to create a high quality image for the printing on the preassembled substrate. With respect to the step of delivering the image to a user, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to deliver the end product (printed image) of Hinsberg and Takoaka to a client because these end product can be delivered to any desired user.

With respect to claim 26, Figure 13 illustrates and column 7 lines 29-41 of the primary reference Hinsberg teaches the step of assembling the print cutting and folding in order to couple the plurality of smaller print substrate segments to form a reconfigured unitary substrate sized to receive the image during printing.

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4. Claims 27, 29, 2, and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fulkerson et al. (US 6,059,391) in view of Eberle (US 6,425,478). Fulkerson et al. teaches a system for printing on oversized print media. Figures 1 and 2 of Fulkerson et al. teach a transportation system having a track 22, a printing station 12 comprising a movable print head. With respect to the requirement for an unloading and delivery station, the apparatus illustrated in Figure 1 must inherently include these stations downstream of the printing station 12, in order for the apparatus to be operable. Fulkerson et al. further teaches a platform 14 sized to receive an oversized print substrate, the print substrate being sized to correspond to a desired product size. As illustrated in Figure 1, the platform resides on the track and moves along the track in a translational motion. The printing station 12 and the unloading station and delivery station, must be coupled together, in some manner, by the track 22. As outlined in column 4 lines 43-49, the print head is configured to scan across the print substrate in a direction perpendicular to the translational motion of the print substrate. In fact, Fulkerson et al. teaches all the claimed subject matter except for the requirement that the transportation track comprises a rail having a groove. Eberle teaches a transportation track for a conveyor device. As outlined in column 6 lines 30-36, the apparatus of Eberle includes a transportation track with a V-shaped groove in a guide rail. To one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious to include the in the track of Fulkerson et al., a rail with a groove, in order to provide a sturdier support for moving elements on the track.

With respect to claim 29, and the broad requirement for a guidance system coupled to the rail of the track, the applicant should note that the driving components as outlined in the abstract

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of the primary reference Fulkerson et al., meets the requirement for a system being coupled to the rail to the track and configured to move the platform along the track.

With respect to claim 2, the applicant should note that insofar as structure for this claim is requirement, any print substrate could be divided into segments.

With respect to claim 3, Figure 1 of Fulkerson et al. illustrates the printing station 12 that includes a stationary platform (not numbered) upon which the print head is mounted. With respect to the requirement for loading station, in order for the apparatus of Fulkerson et al. to be operable, the apparatus must inherently include a loading station upstream of the printing station 12.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 7-9, 12-18, 21, 22, 24, 25, and 28 are allowed.
6. Claims 6, 11, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 is indicated as having allowable subject matter because the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious the total combination claimed, including a transport mechanism having a rectangular member; and a motor, wherein the rectangular member is configured to contact the platform during operation and linearly translate the platform along the track.

Claim 11 is indicated as having allowable subject matter because the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious the total method for assembling, further comprising coupling

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the smaller-print substrate segments together into the single substrate, and coupling an attachment member along at least one edge of the single substrate.

Claim 20 is indicated as having allowable subject matter because the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious the total method for assembling, further comprising coupling the smaller-print substrate segments together into the single substrate, and coupling an attachment member along at least one edge of the single substrate.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments, filed May 03, 2004, with respect to claims 4 and 5 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The previous rejection of claim 4 under Fulkerson et al. (US 6,059,391) in view of Zelko (US 5,887,519) has been withdrawn. However, a new basis of rejection under these same references has been applied. Because of this new basis for rejecting claims 4 and 5, this action is non-final.

8. The previous rejections of claims 10 and 19 have been withdrawn. However, a new basis of rejection under Hinsberg in view of Takoaka has been applied. Because of this new basis for rejecting claims 10 and 19, this action is non-final.


Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave A Ghatt whose telephone number is (571) 272-2165. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DAG



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